(b) the total number of recruitments from each of the North-Eastern States during the last five years; and

(c) whether there is any proposal for a special drive to increase recruitment from States?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Recruitment made in the Army from North-Eastern States and the total all India recruitment, during the last five years are as under:—

Recruitments from North-Eastern States

States	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Assam	2157	1187	762	1128	743
Arunachal Pradesh	42	66	101	172	54
Manipur	578	286	368	588	211
Meghalaya	215	164	125	281	59
Mizoram	131	95	117	297	114
Nagaland	129	183	370	431	199
Tripura	129	137	82	120	54
Total All India	87,258	57,394	40,959	51,952	46,741

Regular recruitment rallies are being conducted in all the North-Eastern States to ensure that allotted vacancies are filled during the recruitment year.

Disappearance of Gun Spares from Jabalpur

†1188. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in Delhi edition of 'Hindustan' dated the 5th January, 2001 under the caption "Jabalpur Aayudh Bhandar Se Topon Ke Kalpurje Gayab";

(b) if so, what are the comprehensive details thereof; and

(c) what are the details of action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Preliminary inquiry conducted by Central Ordnance Depot,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Jabalpur has revealed loss of Ordnance Stores made of brass weighing approximately 989 Kg. and worth about Rs. 17.40 lakh.

(c) A Court of Inquiry has been ordered by Head Quarters Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa Area. Inquiry is still in progress. Follow up action will be taken based on the Inquiry report. Necessary instructions on strengthening the security of Ordnance Depots, have since been issued again to all concerned.

Spurt in the activities of insurgent groups in North-East

1189. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the recent years there has been a spurt in the activities of insurgent groups in the entire North-East Area and more particularly in Assam;

(b) if so, reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to contain the insurgency activities in the entire North-Eastern Area so that the developmental activities can be carried on without any hindrance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) It is not correct to say that there has been a spurt in the activities of millitant groups in the entire North-East.

The situation in Mizoram continues to be peaceful, Nagaland is also largely peaceful, primarily due to the Cease Fire between Government of India and NSCN(I/M). The situation in Arunachal Pradesh is largely peaceful. However, militant activities in Tirap and Changland districts have shown an increase. There has been some deterioration in the situation in Meghalaya where the Central Government has recently declared the Achik National Volunteer Council and Hynniewtrep National Liberation Council as 'unlawful Associations.' The violence levels in Manipur continue to be at the level of last two years, yet there is cause for serious concern due to subversion of the Government machinery. Civilian killings in Assam and Tripura have shown a sharp increase, primarily due to indiscriminate violence unleashed by militant outfits against unarmed, innocent civilians.

(c) Steps taken by the Government to combat militancy in the North-East include, *inter alia*, deployment of Central Para Military Forces and Army; improved coordination and sharing of intelligence between the security forces;